Amendment in Contempt of Courts Act

860. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the gravity of the situation arising out of the increasing number of contempt cases throughout the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Bar Council of India has demanded amendments in the present Contempt of Courts Act in order to bring transparency in administration of justice and in view of increasing number of contempt cases;

(c) whether Government have consulted the Supreme Court in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) by when an amending bill is proposed to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per available information details of pendency of contempt cases in High Courts is given in the Statement. *(See* below) Government from time to time have written to all High Courts and State Governments to expedite the disposal of cases including contempt cases.

(b) to (e) The bar Council of India has sent copies of its resolutions to the Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs wherein changes in the Law of Contempt have been suggested. The Bar Council of India have also sent a copy of these resolutions to the press for publication. The resolutions *inter-alia* include exclusion of lawyers from the purview of Contempt of Courts Act and to include Judges of the Apex Court and the High Courts within the purview of the Contempt of Court Jurisdiction like other Judicial Officers.

Various provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 were reviewed by the Government in pursuance of the suggestion of the P.C. Jain Commission set up by the Government to review the

Administrative Laws and it was decided not to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 for the present.

Statement

Pendency of Contempt Cases in High Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	As on	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	Allahabad	31/12/2000	0	31981	31981
2	Andhra Pradesh	31/12/2000	1857	0	1857
3	Bombay	30/6/2000	230	78	308
4	Calcutta	30/6/2000	2707	0	2707
5	Delhi	31/12/1999	2209	186	2395
6	Gauhati	30/6/1999	1533	22	1555
7	Gujarat	31/3/2000	6287	101	6388
8	Himachal Pradesh	30/09/2000	38	2	40
9	J & K	30/6/2000	3576	39	3615
10	Karnataka	31/12/2000	1941	40	1981
11	Kerala	31/12/2000	652	0	652
12	Madhya Pradesh	31/12/2000	898	52	950
13	Madras	30/09/2000	899	0	899
14	Orissa	31/12/2000	2303	0	2303
15	Patna	31/12/2000	5756	130	5886
16	Punjab & Haryana	31/12/2000	2812	63	2875
17	Rajasthan	30/09/2000	1212	19	1231
18	Sikkim	31/12/2000	1	2	3
	Grand Total		34911	32715	67626